MASTER COPY

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NEWS LETTER

Vol. VII, No. 2 Sampson, New York May, 1949

PERIOD OF MILTON CONVENTION PROGRAM

To the Editor:

Here is the 1949 MLA program for the Age of Milton Group at the Convention to be held this year at Stanford University, California, September 7-9:

Roberts Florence Brinkley, Duke University, "Coleridge's Criticism of Jeremy Taylor"
J. Max Patrick, University of Florida, "The Concept of Liberty in the Writings of Sir Henry Vane the Younger"
George W. Whiting, The Rice Institute, "The Geneva Bible and Paradise Lost, Books XI and XII."

-- John L. Lievsay, University of Tennessee

EDITION OF MILTON'S PROSE

Complete Prose Works of John Milton

In preparation for Yale University Press

EDITORIAL BOARD
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To the Editor:

I am enclosing a summary of the paper I read at the MLA which is merely made up of excerpts. If this is still too long, by all means cut it wherever you wish.

Before making this talk, I made an announcement of the project with the permission of the chairman, Robert Cawley, a copy of which I am enclosing.

-- Don M. Wolfe, Brooklyn College

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILTON PROSE PROJECT

The chairman has given me permission to make an announcement about the new edition of Milton's complete prose in preparation for Yale University Press. The complete prose (Latin works in translation only) is to be incorporated in eight volumes, including index, the first volume to appear it is hoped, in early 1950. A mimeographed outline of the tentative table of contents is available to members here today.

An editorial board has been organized, consisting at present of Professors Douglas Bush, J. Milton French, Merritt Y. Hughes, Sir Herbert Grierson, Wallace Notestein, Alexander Witherspoon, A.S.P. Woodhouse, and Don M. Wolfe. Volume I is to be edited by Mr. Wolfe, Volume III by Mr. Hughes, and Volume VI by Mr. Maurice Kelley. Mr. Allan H. Gilbert has accepted tentatively the editorship of Volume VII.

The Board wishes to make the Milton project genuinely cooperative, with as many Milton scholars working on it as have the time and inclination to do so. It is conceivable that the footnotes alone to a single tract such as Tetrachordon or The Ready and Easy Way would be a rich contribution to the project. I have been authorized by the Board, therefore, to say that anyone who is interested should speak or write to one of us, mentioning preferably more than one prose work on which he would like to help. The Board will then make recommendations to the various volume editors. Each volume editor is free to do the work on the whole volume himself or to select editors of individual prose works within his volume. Though we cannot give assurance that all suggestions will be accepted, what we hope is that anyone eager to give time to the project may have an opportunity to make his contribution.

PROBLEMS IN EDITING MILTON'S PROSE

Don M. Wolfe

In the twenty-seven decades since Milton's death, his prose works have been edited in any comprehensive fashion nine times, and of these only twice by Americans, Rufus Griswold in 1845 (a very poor edition), and the Columbia editors of 1931 to 1938.... The Bohn edition, now almost one hundred years old, is still, despite its illogical arrangement and other weaknesses, the most serviceable edition for the average Milton scholar or graduate student who cannot afford the Columbia for home use.... This repudiation of chronological arrangement in greater or less degree is ... the most critical deficiency of previous scholarship that our new edition of Milton's prose expects to remedy.... I do not see how any searcher of Milton's ideas, or the changes, sometimes very swift, of his intellectual positions, can escape the necessity of reading the prose in the order in which it was written, with some orientation in the historical events and pamphleteering sallies that called forth each of Milton's determined thrusts with his left hand.... The training of the intellectual historian, of the rhetorician and the student of Renaissance rhetoric, of the classicist, the grammarian, the linguist, the Latinist, the translator, the theologian, the sociologist, the historian, the political scientist, the biographer -- the training of all these is needed to do justice to the task before us.... These problems are so complex and intricate as to require for their solution many well-trained minds ... thirty or forty scholars collaborating on the project ... not only to meet the need of scholars and teachers for a useful, compact edition of the prose, but also to exemplify all the diverse currents that sustained the life of Milton's mind.

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY NEWS LETTER

Edited for members of English Discussion Group VI: The Period of Milton, of the Modern Language Association of America, and for others interested, by

Dean Arthur M. Coon,
Sampson College,
Sampson, New York.

Contributing Editor: James M. Osborn, Yale University

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Vol. VII, No. 2 May, 1949

MILTON AND COMIC BOOKS

What would John Milton have thought of the comic books so popular with children today, and of the controversy concerning their regulation?

Perhaps he might have approved of them as educationally effective. At least some statements in his essay "Of Education" suggest this. On the other hand, he might have ignored them, as relevant only to the education of the masses, that "miscellaneous rabble." With regard to their regulation, he might have objected to imprimatura ducking to each other on the piazzas of title-pages.

What would he have thought of allowing, or preventing, Communists the liberty of preaching their doctrine? Would he have said, "Yet is it not impossible that she (Truth) may have more shapes than one?" That it is better for "many to be tolerated than all compelled?" Or would he have felt about communism as he did about "popery and open superstition, which, as it extirpates all religions and civil supremacies, so itself should be extirpate, provided first that all charitable and compassionate means be used to regain the weak and the misled?"

As to tolerating Communists as faculty members of educational institutions, we remember his remark, "Let her (Truth) and falsehood grapple; who ever knew truth put to the worse, in a free and open encounter." "But ah!" someone might say, "can we be sure that the encounter in such cases would always be open and free?"

What would Milton have thought (if he were aware of our little periodical), of the charge that the Seventeenth Century News Letter circulates only within an ivory tower? Of the complaint of Mr. Cobrin in our October issue that we seem to be concerned only with "technical and obtuse problems"; not at all with the love of literature and the importance of the Seventeenth Century as it relates to the present? (Was it really an answer to Mr. Cobrin to refer him to the books and articles our correspondents have written?)

At any rate, it is interesting and perhaps useful to speculate about what that great man of those troubled times would have thought about various problems of these troubled times. No doubt this is one reason for the increasing number of Milton students.

We invite correspondence on what readers think Milton would have thought on the above topic, or others. Or on what readers think themselves about them. As a beginning, will some one venture either to disprove that we live in an ivory tower, or to prove that, even if we do, we ought not to be evicted?

PMLA MARCHES. ON?

Just as we are getting this issue in shape for the printer, the March 1949 PMLA appears, in blue covers (accompanied by the 1948 Proceedings and list of members, in brown ones). A number of innovations indicate that the periodical, under the vigorous editorship of the new secretary of the Association, Mr. William Riley Parker, is indeed marching. As to which direction, there will probably be the usual debate.

In the back the listing of Academic Appointments and Vacancies is continued and expanded.

In the front the notes "For Members Only" run to four pages, and contain a number of items to which we recommend particular attention -- especially the ones giving dates of various 1949 meetings, explaining why the Table of Contents has been eliminated from the cover, and stating that footnotes are not the *sine qua non* of scholarship.

The chronological order of articles has been reversed. We begin with Jean-Paul Sartre and existentialism on p. 5, therefore, and do not arrive at Gautier d'Arras until p. 302. Although we found no note announcing this change of policy, we presume it will not go unobserved.

On p. 3 appears a statement of editorial policy which also invites members of the Association to reconsider the function of PMLA. Among the general positions taken are these:

1. PMLA should reflect the most distinguished American scholarship in modern languages and literatures.
2. The distribution of articles by fields should depend solely on excellence.
3. PMLA encourages the advance of literary and linguistic learning on the widest possible front. It welcomes new approaches if soundly based; disavows a prejudice in favor of the conventional or traditional; specifically invites articles on critical theory, the history of ideas, analytical bibliography, and American civilization (stipulating only literary relevance).
4. Minor articles, highly technical studies, and very brief or very long articles are discouraged.
5. A clear, readable, and concise style is desired.

All our readers are urged to read the statement in detail.

Speaking for ourselves, we are most enthusiastic about the new statement of policy, and about the other changes which Mr. Parker and his associates have instituted. We feel quite definitely that the direction in which PMLA is marching is forward. Readers would probably like to learn the opinions of others.

LETTERS FROM CORRESPONDENTS

TO BE REPRODUCED IN FACSIMILE

The re-typing of letters from correspondents for publication in the News Letter takes a good deal of time. When the letters are already typed when we receive them, it seems a little foolish. Especially when one considers that the News Letter is reproduced photographically, so that all one really has to do to reproduce such a letter is to paste it to a sheet for photographing.

Beginning with this issue, therefore, we are going to try the experiment of reproducing that way some of the letters which otherwise we should merely re-type. We shall begin slowly, and with this fair warning, so correspondents who are particularly sensitive about their typing, spelling, or other such matters may take more care with them. (Or outwit us by writing in longhand).

We have already lost, or at least alienated, half our friends by printing their letters when they did not expect us to. ("I'm afraid to write, complains one of the latter on the edge of his renewal blank, "for fear you will print my letter".) This new policy may result in our receiving no further letters from anybody.

Yet we feel that anyone who writes an editor should be prepared to see his letter among "Letters to the Editor." One can always say, "Please do not print this," or, "Do not print this part."

Caveat scriptor, therefore!

OBJECTIVITY

"A second facet of teacher performance typical enough to deserve mention is the passion for objectivity and a kind of intellectual neutrality...Neutrality as an aim means neutrality as an attitude -- a colorless, aloof habit of mind which is at once hard to come by and basically devastating to human character. Such a habit of mental emasculation gives rise to an outlook by teachers which says in effect, 'I shall offer evidence on all sides of the question and leave the student to choose his own answers. Whatever opinions or convictions I may have will be subordinated or better still go unexpressed...'

"Neither complete and perennial suspension of judgment by the teacher is valid; nor is any laying down of the law with dogmatic finality defensible. Yet...there are standards to which we repair. And to ignore this truth in a sterile vacuum of intellectual neutrality in which the teacher is always saying 'On the one hand,' 'but then again on the other,' is the height of instructional fatuity."

-- Ordway Tead, College Teaching and College Learning (Yale, 1949), pp. 17-19.

ON READING CONVENTION PAPERS

In School and Society about a year ago, Loren D. Reid offered some interesting observations, summarized below, on the above subject:

1. The best of reading will not help a paper that is trivial, trite, commonplace, or narrow; nor will the worst totally ruin one that is original, far-reaching, unusual, significant, or intelligently controversial.
2. Oral and written utterance differ considerably; it is proper to prepare separate versions for convention presentation and for later publication.
3. Visual aids help; the "Candlelight Room" may have poor acoustics, or you may catch cold, or the interest of some hearers may be marginal.
4. Although it is conventional to have a paper written out, not every word need be read; to paraphrase some parts may enable you to keep your eye on the audience and render your delivery more informal and lively. It may also help you to
5. Save time for discussion. If you are assigned 15 minutes, 10 may suffice for delivery of the paper.

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY ABSTRACTS

(Abstracts should be typed, in the style shown below, in pica type, with not over 65 characters and spaces per line. Abstracters may send them in at any time, and all on hand when an issue goes to press will be published.)

ACCENT

(No report since our last issue.)
-- Don A. Keister, University of Akron

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Abstracter wanted.

PAPERS OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Miller, C. William. "In the Savoy: A Study in Post-Restoration Imprints." BSUV, I. 41-46.
Identification of the names of the King's Printers who used the imprint phrase "In the Savoy" between 1666 and 1780.

Williams, Philip. "The Compositor of the "Pied Bull" Lear." BSUV, I. 61-68.
Spelling tests establish that only one compositor set the text of the first quarto of King Lear; this compositor can be identified in other books printed by Nicholas Okes.

McManaway, James G. "The First Five Bookes of Ovids Metamorphosis, 1621, Englished by Master George Sandys." BSUV, I. 71-82.
A detailed bibliographical and textual study of the Folger Library's recently acquired unique copy of the lost earliest edition of part of Sandys's translation from Ovid.

Eberle, Gerald J. "Sir John Davies' Nosce Teipsum, 1599: A Bibliographical Puzzle." BSUV, I. 135-148.
The complicated printing and textual problems caused by the simultaneous printing of two editions with some variant conflation of typesettings.

Stevenson, Allan H. "New Uses of Watermarks as Bibliographical Evidence." BSUV, I. 151-182.
A study of the succession of job lots of watermarked paper through a press can often reveal crucial evidence of printing practice. As a case history, the complicated relations of a series of James Shirley's play quartos through Cotes's press is timed and worked out in detail.

Battle, Guy A. "A Bibliographical Note from the Beaumont and Fletcher First Folio, 1647." BSUV, I. 187-188.
The theory that box-rules surrounding a type-page and carried over from forme to forme may provide printing evidence is studied in the fifth section of the Folio.

Steck, James S. "Center Rules in Folio Printings: A New Kind of Bibliographical Evidence." BSUV, I. 188-191.
From the fifth section of the 1647 Beaumont and Fletcher Folio it can be demonstrated that the center rule in a box-frame is transferred from forme to forme independently of the frame, and that this evidence can be used to time with some precision the relation of imposition to distribution of wrought-off type-pages.

Williams, George W. "Textual Revision in Crashaw's "Upon the Bleeding Crucifix." BSUV, I. 191-193.
The revised version of the poem shows Crashaw rearranging the details to achieve an "articulated structure" similar to George Herbert's practice.

Bowers, Fredson. "Running-Title Evidence for Determining Half-Sheet Imposition." BSUV, I. 199-202.
From studies of Restoration play quartos new bibliographical evidence is adduced to demonstrate whether two separated half-sheets in a book were printed separately or together on a full sheet.

-- Fredson Bowers, University of Virginia.

HISPANIC REVIEW

(No report since our last issue.)
-- Edwin B. Knowles, Queens College.

HUDSON REVIEW

No 17th C. items. --Don A. Keister, University of Akron.

HUNTINGTON LIBRARY QUARTERLY

Robbins, Caroline. "The Repeal of the Triennial Act in 1664." HLQ, XII. 121-140.
Discusses the debates on the Repeal, analyzing its nature, and showing Charles' political astuteness, the temporary reaction in the direction of absolutism, Richard Temple's and John Vaughan's opposition to the Repeal, and the ultimately counterbalancing effect of the English readiness to revolt.

Haller, William. "Two Early Allusions to Milton's Areopagitica." HLQ, XII. 207-212.
Mentions the paucity of contemporary reference to Milton's pamphlet, but records the two following early allusions: John Hall's An Humble Motion ... Concerning The Advancement of Learning and Reformation of Universities (1649), and The Panegyrike and The Storme Powltie Libells by Ed. Wallis[Vassa'll to the Usurper Answered by More Faythful Subjects to... King Charles (1659), probably by Richard Watson.

-- Joseph Frank, University of Rochester.

JOURNAL OF ENGLISH AND GERMANIC PHILOLOGY.

(No report since our last issue.)
-- Scott Elledge, Carleton College.

JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LITERARY HISTORY

(No report since our last issue).
-- William Sloane, Dickinson College.

JOURNAL OF THE HISTORY OF IDEAS

(No report since our last issue).
-- Edwin B. Knowles, Queens College.

KENYON REVIEW

Spring issue not yet received. --Don A. Keister, University of Akron.

LONDON TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

(No report since our last issue).
-- Sara Ruth Watson, Penn College

MODERN LANGUAGE NOTES

(No report since our last issue).
-- J. Max Patrick, University of Florida

MODERN LANGUAGE REVIEW

Lang, D. M. "Boileau and Sumarokov. The Manifesto of Russian Classicism." MLR, XLIII. 500-506.
Alexander Petrovich Sumarokov (1718-1777), aristocrat by birth and upbringing, issued his Epistle on Poetry (Epistola o Stikhotvorstve) which is neo-classical in its point of view, in 1748. Parallel passages from the Epistle in English translation and from Boileau's Art Poetique reveal the source of many of Sumarokov's ideas. His doctrines influenced Russian literature chiefly in language (simplicity) and in the dream (the three unities.)

Robertson, Jean. Review of Benjamin Boyce's The Theophrastan Character in England to 1642. MLR, XLIII. 529.
"This book has value both as an illuminating study of the Character, written with considerable charm and liveliness, and as an introduction to many little-known prose writers of the seventeenth century."

Wright, B. A. Review of T.S.Eliot's Milton. MLR, XLIII. 530-532.

(Cont. on page 5).

N. D. McRae, Balliol College, Oxford, wrote to LTLS, 2, 450 (January 15, 1949) 48 for information on Richard Knolles (1550-1610). If any scholar has material useful to Professor McRae, please get in touch with him.

Modern Language Notes
...J. Max Patrick, University of Florida.

Pike, Robert E. "Racine and 'Le Cocuage de Molière,'" Modern Language Notes, Vol. LXIV (Jan., 1949), pp. 51-52. A book about Molière's "cocuage" published by Racine in 1672, containing "cinq ou six portraits .. et beaucoup de notes" is listed in a Mss. in the Bibliothèque National.

Pike, Robert E. "A Contemporary Judgment on Molière," Modern Language Notes, Vol. LXIV (Jan., 1949), pp. 49-51. C. Menancon devoted 5 pages in 1677 to proving (?) that Molière really venerated the medical art.

Modern Language Quarterly
...Garland Ethel, University of Washington.

William Elton, 'Paradise Lost' and the Digby 'Mary Magdalene'. MLQ, Vol. IX, No. 4, Dec. 1948, pp. 412-414.
A brief discussion of parallels suggesting possible source of the Infernal Council and certain other particulars in Paradise Lost, which have not hitherto been pointed out. The soundness of J. H. Hanford's insistence upon the importance of Milton's dramatic inheritance is urged upon Milton scholarship.

Modern Language Review
...S. Blaine Ewing, Lehigh University.

Partridge, A. C. "The Periphrastic Auxiliary Verb 'Do' and Its Use in the Plays of Ben Jonson." MLR, XLIII, 26-33. Traces development of the periphrastic "do" (e.g. "Do you think so?") previous to Jonson. Then demonstrates Jonson's practice in the plays by quotations organized in groups, indicative and imperative, positive and negative, statement and question. Contrasts Jonsonian and modern practice, thus illuminating usage and meaning in each era.

Simpson, Evelyn M. "Donne's Spanish Authors." MLR, XLII. 182-186.
Asserts that there is no evidence to support Gosse's belief (Life and Letters of Donne, I, 17) that sixteenth century Spanish literature was a predominant influence on Donne, nor that the Spanish mystics, St. Teresa, Granada, and St. John of the Cross, proved "irresistibly fascinating" to him.

Jenkins, Harold. "Benlowes and Milton." MLR, XLIII. 186-195.
Presents parallel passages to show Edward Benlowes's many direct borrowings in Theophila (1652) from Milton's Poems (1645). Examines documentary evidence which indicates that Benlowes was at work on Canto III of Theophila in early 1646; his borrowings therefore show that at least one admirer (if few others) began to read and use Milton's minor poems as soon as published.

Modern Philology
...P. L. Rumtley, University of Michigan.

Notes and Queries
...Kester Svendsen, University of Oklahoma.

Chambers, L. H. "S. Michael Cornhill Marriages 1646-1754," N & Q, CXCIV. 13-14. Brief history of the church plus a list of marriages including these from the 17th century: William Garnett-Elizabeth Taileford (1612), Exp'or [sic] Price-Marie Brooke (1621), Alexander Wyeld [Weld]-Anne Mead (1645), John Thomas-Rebeccha Marsh, John Langstone-Martha Pelbrigg (1652), John Robert Hauckley-Sarah Alding (1689), Francis Stonard-Heleanor Edwards, William Penn-Francis Edwards (1690).

Parsons, Howard. "The Identity of I. M. (of 'First Folio' Celebrity)." N & Q, CXCIV. 58. Suggests James Mervyn, who wrote a prologue to Shirley's The Royal Master, as author of First Folio commendatory poem signed I. M.

Partisan Review
...Don A. Keister, University of Akron.

Publications of the Modern Language Association of America
...F. Michael Krouse, University of Cincinnati.

Smith, Philip A. "Bishop Hall, 'Our English Seneca,'" PMLA, LXIII. 1191-1204.
A comprehensive survey of the grounds, the nature, the contemporary relationships, and the effects of Joseph Hall's Neo-Stoicism, this article deals with the bishop as "the leading Neo-Stoic of the seventeenth century," seeks to explain why he and others were attracted to Stoicism ("a rule of life in conformity with an 'immanent cosmic reason'"), and shows how Seneca's philosophy was harmonized with Christianity.

Philological Quarterly
...Charles D. Murphy, University of Maryland.

Marilla, E. L. "Henry Vaughan to Sir William Davenant." PQ, XXVII. 181-184.
Interprets a difficult passage in Vaughan's poem as a reference to Davenant's imprisonment.

Wilson, Edward M. "Did John Fletcher Read Spanish?" PQ, XXVII. 187-190.
Evidence that Fletcher used untranslated Spanish novels as sources.

Patrick, J. Max. "Robert Burton's Utopianism." PQ, XXVII. 345-358.
Burton's unjustly neglected "Utopia" is "no dryasdust pamphlet, no escapist fantasy, but an important criticism of English life and society"; Burton was "a pioneer in advocating a secular, non-communist, planned society."

Dodson, Daniel. "Middleton's Livia." PQ, XXVII. 376-381. Argues that earlier critics have underestimated the author's skill and subtlety in this picture of a woman's degeneration.

Review of English Studies
...Don A. Keister, University of Akron.

Nosworthy, J. M. "The Narrative Sources of The Tempest." RES, XXIV. 281-294.
The narrative seems to be a composite of three sources: an earlier romance or play (possibly Shakespeare's), Thomas's Historie of Italie, and the story of the meeting of Aeneas and Venus from the first book of the Aeneid.

Allison, A. F. "Crashaw and St. François de Sales." RES, XXIV. 295-302.
Gives several instances of Crashaw's indebtedness to Le Traité de l'Amour de Dieu.

Seventeenth Century Abstracts, continued

(Cont. from p. 3).

"This lecture is Mr. Eliot's apologia for the censures on Milton with which his name is associated. . . . Not everyone will be convinced by this justification of the late attack on Milton." Attacks Eliot's assertion that the unit of Milton's blank verse is not the line but the period or paragraph.

Purser, J. W. M. Review of Moody E. Prior's The Language of Tragedy. MLR, XLIII. 537-538.
"A survey of English poetic drama from Gorboduc to Spender's Trial of a Judge, and an examination of the use, successful or unsuccessful, which different dramatists . . . have made of verse."

Moore, W. G. Review of Dr. Stewart's edition of Pascal's Entretien avec M. de Saci. MLR, XLIII, 542-543.
"Handy reprint of a valuable seventeenth-century text," which purports to give Pascal's views on Epictetus and Montaigne. "The Entretien may . . . give us little more than a distant echo, or perhaps the general tendency, of Pascal's argument."

Leigh, R. A. Review of G. Rudler's edition of Molière's Le Misanthrope. MLR, XLIII. 543-544.
"Professor Rudler's lively and stimulating introduction handles with great dexterity and concision all the usual problems arising from the play, and directs attention to others not commonly discussed."

Moore, W. G. Review of Daniel Mornet's Histoire de la littérature française classique, 1660-1700. Ses caractères véritables, ses aspects inconnus. MLR, XLIII. 544-546.
"This book may prove an event in the history of its subject. The first attempt since Brunetière to revalue the greatest age of French literature, it is a synthesis of work done on special problems over the last forty years. It presents a mass of new material."

Greyson, Margaret. Review of G. Le Gentil's Fernão Mendes Pinto, Un précurseur de l'exotisme au XVIe siècle. MLR, XLIII. 550-551.
The originality of the book lies in considering the Peregrinação de Fernão Mendes Pinto, Lisbon, 1614, "as the literary ancestor of subsequent efforts in Europe to exploit the picturesque and moral possibilities of the Far East." The author "is in danger of being borne by his ingenuity away from the reality of the book."

Crosland, Margaret. Review of W. S. Mitchell's edition of Lope de Vega's Fuenteovejuna. MLR, XLIII. 551-552
"Said to have been the favourite play of the Soviet Army." "In his introduction the Editor gives a brief account of the life and works of Lope de Vega, with notes on stage conditions in Spain in the Golden Age, and on the historical background, characters, ideology and rhyme-scheme of the play."

-- S. Blaine Ewing, Lehigh University

MODERN PHILOLOGY

Bentley, Norma E. "Another Butler Manuscript." MP, XLVI. 132-136.
To be added to Josephine Bauer's (MP, XIV) list: item mentioned in Assembach's 1941 Catalogue of English Poetry to 1700. It is a commonplace book containing poetry and some characters.

-- Frank Huntley, University of Michigan

NOTES AND QUERIES

(No report since our last issue).

-- Kester Svendsen, University of Oklahoma

PARTISAN REVIEW

No 17th C. items. --Don A. Keister, University of Akron.

PHILOLOGICAL QUARTERLY

No 17th C. items. -- C.D. Murphy, University of Maryland.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

(No report since our last issue).
-- F. Michael Krouse, University of Cincinnati

REVIEW OF ENGLISH STUDIES

Hewitt, Douglas. "The Very Pompes of the Divell--Popular and Folk Elements in Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama." RES, XIV. 10-23.
Suggests that audiences often "sensed a connexion between the folk ceremonies and the drama." In particular, reminiscences of the cult of the dying god lent significance to the tragic hero.

Oliver, H. J. "Izaak Walton as Author of Love and Truth and Thealma and Clearchus." RES, XXV. 24-37.
Walton undoubtedly wrote Love and Truth and very probably Thealma and Clearchus.

Pyle, Fitzroy. "Milton's Sonnet on His 'Late Espoused Saint.'" RES, XXV. 57-60.
Opposes W. R. Parker's contention that Mary Powell rather than Katherine Woodcock was the subject of the sonnet.

Garrod, H. W. Review of Hoyt Hopewell Hudson's The Epigram in the English Renaissance. RES, XXV. 71-74.
Worth noting for the listing of a number of mistakes in the Latin texts quoted.

Wright, B. A. Reviews of Elizabeth Marie Pope's Paradise Regained: The Tradition and the Poem, B. Rajan's Paradise Lost and the Seventeenth Century Reader, and A. J. A. Waldock's Paradise Lost and Its Critics. RES, XXV. 75-83.
Contains a discussion of Waldock's interpretation of the Fall.

--Don A. Keister, University of Akron.

SCRUTINY

Spring issue not yet received. --Don A. Keister, University of Akron.

SEWANEE REVIEW

No 17th C. items. --Don A. Keister, University of Akron.

STUDIES IN PHILOLOGY

Luciani, Vincent. "Raleigh's Cabinet-Council and Guicciardini's Aphorisms." SP, XLIV, 20-30.
"At least one-tenth of the reflections in Chapter XXV of the Cabinet-Council, and not eight, as heretofore supposed, can be traced back to Guicciardini."

-- William B. Hunter, Wofford College

WESTERN REVIEW

(No report since our last issue).
-- Don A. Keister, University of Akron.

ABSTRACTERS SHARE JOB

To the Editor:

Mr. Robert Hinman has asked me to share with him the pleasant task of digesting 'The Huntington Library Quarterly' for your News Letter. I, too, am teaching English, and my field is the seventeenth century. (I'm writing a PhD thesis on the Levellers, under Douglas Bush at Harvard.) Consequently, if you have no objection, you will probably hear from Mr. Hinman and myself alternately.

Attached is my first contribution, two items from the February issue of the Bulletin. I trust this arrangement is satisfactory with you.

Joseph Frank

-- University of Rochester

Ed. note: The idea of sharing the work of abstracting may appeal to others. The original abstracter should retain the responsibility of seeing that the abstracts are sent in either by himself or his confrere.

GUGGENHEIM AWARDS

Among the recipients of Guggenheim fellowships for next year are the following who plan to work on a Seventeenth Century subject:

Dr. Francis Rarick Johnson, Associate Professor of English, Stanford University; the History of scientific thought and activity in Elizabethan England.

Dr. Ruth Allan McIntyre, Assistant Professor of History, Wells College; the English merchant class as promoters of early seventeenth century discovery and of colonial enterprise.

Dr. Malcolm MacKenzie Ross, Associate Professor of English, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; Christian symbolism in English poetry of the early seventeenth century.

Dr. Austin Warren, Professor of English, University of Michigan; the poetry of John Donne.

NEWS LETTER ADJUDGED FREE OF OBSCENITY, COMMUNISM, HERESY

The University of Sydney

To the Editor:

Thank you for sending me the October News Letter and for so kindly including me in the free subscription list. Having just convinced the local customs officials by ocular demonstration that the publication was not obscene or (presumably) communistic or heretical, I have been granted a dollar for the coming year and hope this munificence will continue. My copies have therefore been ordered through the booksellers Angus and Robertson. I could use the extra ones to get others here interested, or to lend among students.

I edit Southerly, the quarterly magazine of the Sydney Branch of the English Association. A number of articles on seventeenth-century topics have been published in it. You may care to have a list*, for any interest it can have to your readers. I'll also send a few offprints.

With best wishes,

-- R. G. Howarth

R. G Howarth

* Yes, please.

The two offprints which Professor Howarth kindly sends include a review by W. Milgate of Evelyn Hardy, John Donne -- A Spirit in Conflict (critically unimportant), and one by Professor Howarth of Robert Graves, The Story of Marie-Powell, Wife to Mr. Milton (monstrously unfair; scarcely even plausible).

PEDAGOGICAL ABC

Professor R. C. Bald, of Cornell University, was scheduled to demonstrate and defend the historical and philological presentation of a "special piece of English literature commonly taught to college classes" at the New York State meeting of the College English Association at Elmira College May 7. Defender of the critical and semantic presentation was to be Professor M. H. Abrams, also of Cornell. The piece of literature to be discussed was Coleridge's "Dejection, An Ode."

In our next issue we shall announce the winners: Abrams, Bald, or Coleridge.

AMERICAN QUARTERLY

The first issue of a new scholarly periodical, The American Quarterly has appeared (March, 1949). It is published by the University of Minnesota Press for the American Studies Program at the University of Minnesota, and is edited by Professor William Van O'Connor, with the assistance of a national board. We welcome this newcomer to the field.

The first issue apparently contains no items of Seventeenth Century interest, but we expect that future issues will. Who will volunteer to abstract Seventeenth Century material for us?

For the Viking Press, Professor Douglas Bush has edited, with an introduction, The Portable Milton. $2.00.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA NEWS

Dr. Ants Oras, familiar to readers of the News Letter as author of Milton's Editors and Commentators from Patrick Hume to Henry Todd (Oxford University Press, 1931) was added to the faculty in English of the University of Florida in January, 1949. He was teaching at the University of Tartu when the Russians occupied Esthonia but effected an escape to England and was employed for some time at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. He is at present engaged in writing a book on Milton's Imagery.

The Ph. D. program in English at the University of Florida is now only in its second year. As a result only one dissertation topic in the Seventeenth Century has so far been given formal approval: Arthur Matthews, (M. A., New York University), An Edition of the Text of Milton's Comus. Supervisor: J. Max Patrick. Several other students plan to work in Seventeenth Century.

No one seems to be looking after the preparation of abstracts of relevant papers delivered at the annual Southern Humanities Conference held alternately at Duke and North Carolina, and the meeting of the South Atlantic MLA. If you wish, I shall undertake both of these henceforth.*

-- J. Max Patrick, University of Florida.

* Offer gratefully accepted. ED.

SOUTH-CENTRAL MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

We learn from the latest issue of P.M.L.A. that a paper on "The Thematic Structure of Lycidas," was presented by Howard Carter from the University of Arkansas. (We already reported papers by Dudley R. Hutcherson and Geoffrey Langsam.)

Will someone undertake to keep us informed of the activities of this association in the future?

SHORT TITLE CATALOGUE

H. Adelbert White (University of Nebraska) is continuing his efforts to make a subject-index of the works noted in the Short Title Catalogue, taking into account also the Check-List of American Copies, revised edition by William W. Bishop (cf. RN I, 26). Mr. White has recently compiled a three-page mimeographed report to supplement the earlier statements of February, 1943, and December, 1944. Individual cards include the number of the book in the STC, the name of the author, the short title as found in the STC (with now and then slight revision for clarity or fuller information), and several of the main locations in Great Britain and the United States. Further inquiries should be addressed directly to Mr. White.

-- Renaissance News.

VICTORIAN NOTES

Another News Letter will shortly enter the field.

Professor William S. Knickerbocker, Emerson College, Boston, will be the editor. As many of our readers know, Professor Knickerbocker for many years edited the Sewanee Review. The price will presumably be $1.00 a year for three issues.

We welcome this newcomer to the field and look forward to receiving the first issue.

IS SAMSON AGONISTES UNFINISHED?

Professor Allan H. Gilbert's paper on the above subject, presented at the 1948 M.L.A. Convention, is being published in the E. N. S. Thompson Memorial Issue of the Philological Quarterly, after which an abstract will in due course arpear in this periodical.

ENGLISH INSTITUTE ANNUALS

Volumes for 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, and 1946 are available from the Columbia University Press.

WASHINGTON NEWS

"Faculties have become preoccupied with research and the writing of learned treatises, the basis of academic advancement. Teaching young people to live has become a matter of secondary importance. This must not be. The consequence of this excessive specialization is a company of so-called educated men who have no common intellectual ground on which to stand."

-- Earl J. McGrath, new U. S. Commissioner of Education, as quoted in the N. Y. Times, April 29, '49

Cf. Professor Douglas Bush, Harvard University, as quoted in the Seventeenth Century News Letter, May, 1948:

"Even within the tribe of specialists in English literature, the several groups do not speak a common language.... Attempts at rapprochement are perhaps less conspicuous than centrifugal diversity."

THEODORE SPENCER

Probably by now most of our readers have heard of the death of Dr. Theodore Spencer, Boylston professor of English at Harvard University, on January 18, 1949, at the age of 46. In 1931 he edited A Garland for John Donne, and in 1939 published (with Mark van Doren) Studies in Metaphysical Poetry. His untimely death is a great loss to scholarship, pedagogy, and poetry.

M.L.A. COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL COOPERATION

Personnel of this important new committee of the Modern Language Association is printed on the inside back cover of the 1948 Proceedings (March, 1949). Professor Helen C. White, University of Wisconsin, is Chairman of the entire committee. Sub-secretary for England is Professor Charles J. Sisson, of University College, London, now visiting professor at the University of North Carolina.

PERIODICAL POST BOX

The March issue (No. 3) announces that this periodical will appear three times a year in the future, at $1.00 per year. Richmond P. Bond, University of North Carolina, edits.

The same issue contains a revised list of periodicals for a microfilmed series. Seventeen titles are followed by Seventeenth Century dates.

(Would anyone care to keep the News Letter informed of news in the field of periodicals?)

THE PURITANS AND THE THEATER

Associate Professor Kathleen Fitzpatrick, lecturer in Tudor and Stuart History in the University of Melbourne, Australia, has recently published an article on the Puritans and the Theater in Historical Studies (Australia and New Zealand), Melbourne University Press, February 1949.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN M.L.A.

The second annual meeting was held at the University of Denver, Colorado, November 26-27, 1948. No papers of Seventeenth Century interest were presented.

Will anyone volunteer to send us news of this Association's activities in the future?

THESES IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

The January issue of the News Bulletin of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association lists master's theses and doctoral dissertations in English or Modern Language departments of the Rocky Mountain Region, as reported by the deans of graduate schools. In English there are fifty-one titles, of which the only one in the Seventeenth Century is a master's thesis, "John Marston and the Decline of the Elizabethan Tragedy," being written by Frederic H. Zook under the direction of Professor Inez Mann at Montana State University.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS, 1947-1948

The H. W. Wilson Company, New York 52, N. Y., has issued Doctoral Dissertations Accepted by American Universities: 1947-1948. 15th Annual Edition. Arnold H. Trotier, Ed. 1948. 157 p. $3.50.

Who has access to a copy of this volume and will offer to list the Seventeenth Century dissertations for the News Letter?

UNIV. OF VA. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

The above-named society has just issued a handsome volume of papers (c/o University of Virginia Library. 207 p. $3.50), edited by Professor Fredson Bowers. Abstracts of the Seventeenth Century articles therein appear among the abstracts in this issue.

DRYDEN BIOGRAPHY

To the Editor:

I have been working for about a year on a biography of John Dryden.

--H. H. Adams, Cornell University.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
CINCINNATI 21, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

To the Editor:

Please find enclosed my personal check for one dollar to cover one year's subscription to the Newsletter. You deserve the warmest congratulations on your able editorship. It has made what could easily be a dull scholarly [illegible] into a surprizingly entertaining, as well as informative, circular.

My own research connections with the seventeenth century lie, for the moment, in the field of Irish theatricals. I am at work on a general history of the stage in Ireland before 1820, and have now assembled the materials for the first volume. This latter will cover from the beginnings of dramatic activities in Ireland down to 1720 or thereabouts. I have found what I believe to be much new historical material, especially on the Werburgh Street and Smock Alley Theatres, Dublin, and their actors. Consequently the story of seventeenth century stage affairs there assumes a richness of detail and interest such as has not heretofore been realized.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

William S. Clark

William S. Clark
Head of the English Department

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

The eighteenth annual meeting was held at Florida State University, November 26-27, 1948. The following papers of Seventeenth Century interest were presented:

"Joseph Glanvill's Continuation of New Atlantis," J. Max Patrick, Univ. of Florida.

"The Formal Background of Penn's Fruits of Solitude," John Lievsay, Univ. of Tennessee.

"Sir Thomas Browne's Scientific Method," George Yost, Jr., Florida State University.

"Should Teachers Study?" Allan H. Gilbert, Duke Univ.

We should be glad to publish abstracts of these papers. (Professor J. Max Patrick has volunteered to supply us with news of this association's meetings in the future.)

SOUTHEASTERN RENAISSANCE MEETING

At the meeting held at the University of North Carolina, January 29, the following papers of Seventeenth Century interest were presented:

J. Max Patrick (Univ. of Florida) "Communism in English Poetry of the Seventeenth Century" (Winstanley and the Digger Movement connected with the tradition of 'golden age' poetry).

Allan H. Gilbert (Duke Univ.) "Milton's Defence of Bawdry" (Obscenity as conscious technique in Milton).

William B. Hunter, Jr. (Wofford College) "Seventeenth Century 'Materialism'" (Critical survey of 'plastic theories' of nature).

Charles J. Sisson (Univ. of London, visiting professor at the University of North Carolina) "Elizabethans in Intimacy".

BRITISH WORK IN PROGRESS

John Purves (Univ. of Edinburgh) is editing Milton's Italian poems for the Oxford University Press.

Frank Kermode (Univ. of Durham), a study of Cowley's Davideis, purporting to place Cowley, through a study of his sources, in the intellectual history of his age.

John Waine (Univ. of Reading) is writing on English versions of Ovid's Metamorphoses in the sixteenth and Seventeenth centuries.

-- Renaissance News.

THANKS FOR THE BOUQUETS

Many of our correspondents and subscribers have been kind enough to say that they were pleased with the Seventeenth Century News Letter.

While we should find it embarrassing to print these compliments and therefore excise them from the letters we print, we should like to say that we have been very glad to receive these kind words. It is pleasant to know that one's efforts, humble though they may be, are appreciated.

(* We did weaken this issue in the case of Professor Clark's letter.)